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Nine New Public Charter Schools in Maryland

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David Miller, Director

The start of the new school year marks the growth of Maryland's public charter schools to a total of 42, with the addition of nine new charter schools. Eight new charter schools are opening in Baltimore City, and the ninth is opening in Anne Arundel County. Six of the new charter schools were originally established as Baltimore City Transformation schools, but are now considered charter schools by the Maryland State Department of Education. These schools are now eligible to receive planning and implementation funds from the Federal Public Charter School Program.

Maryland Charter schools now serve nearly 11,500 students in five counties and Baltimore City. Despite this impressive growth, charter schools cannot keep up with high demand throughout the state. A survey conducted this summer by the Maryland Charter Schools Network found that charter schools around the state have waiting lists of over 3,000 potential students.

"The charter school movement continues to expand in Maryland because charter schools are succeeding academically and parents want more choices" said David N. Miller, Director of the Maryland Charter School Network. "Despite impressive growth, the relatively small number of charter schools forces many families on to wait lists, as parents demand more responsive learning environments and the greater community input that charter schools are able to provide."

While growth of new single-site, charter schools remained constant, more than one in three new charter schools (35 percent) were replications of existing, successful models.

About the Maryland Charter School Network

MCSN is a non-partisan, nonprofit, statewide organization whose mission is to promote and serve the Maryland charter school movement. For more information about the Maryland Charter School Network, please call 800-689-3795 or visit www.mdcharternetwork.org.

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